

King County Public Health Department

Program Profile: Primary Care Program

Background

Public Health's Primary Care program provides accessible health-care services to under- and uninsured King County residents at Columbia (south Seattle), Downtown (Seattle), Eastgate, and North (Northgate) Public Health Centers. Services include pediatric and adolescent care, primary care for all ages, and obstetrical care at Downtown and Columbia. In addition, Public Health hosts residency practices at Columbia, Downtown, Eastgate, and North. The Primary Care program also provides integrated behavioral health services in adult practices, laboratory services, and coordination of referrals to specialty care.

Providing primary care services is critical for our status as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a 330(h) homeless grantee, Public Health receives FQHC enhanced payments for encounters provided to federal Medicaid clients. Current guidance is that Public Health should continue to operate at least two primary care sites to support our FQHC status.

Current Level of Service

In 2013, Public Health provided ~45,000 visits to ~15,500 clients.

Public Health also provides primary care services at Navos in Burien, our School-Based Health Centers and through the Mobile Medical Van in south King County. These services have different funding streams and are budgeted separately from our Public Health Center Primary Care program.

Population Served by the Program

Public Health's primary care clinics serve some of King County's most vulnerable residents, with a focus on people living homeless. More than 97% of our primary care clients have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and nearly 75% are people of color.

Major sources of funding

Fund sources include King County general fund, Medicaid fee-for-service patient generated revenue, FQHC fee-for-service, and Medicare reimbursements

Community Partners

The Primary Care program partners with local health systems on four residency programs:

- Virginia Mason Internal Medicine residency at Eastgate;
- UW Medicine OB residency at Columbia;
- Children's Pediatrics residency at North; and
- Swedish Family Medicine residency at Downtown.

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Proposed Changes in 2015-2016

North

Public Health has been working with Neighborcare Health to develop the Meridian Center for Health on the campus of the current North Public Health Center since 2012. The Meridian Center for Health is scheduled to open in October 2015 but this transition will be moved up by about ten months to January 2015. Public Health will no longer provide primary care services but will continue to provide Maternity Support Services and WIC nutrition services at the new Meridian campus, as well as dental services at our Lake City location.

Columbia

Public Health will no longer provide primary care services and will transition primary care clients to Neighborcare Health and UW Medicine/Harborview. Public Health will continue to provide Dental, WIC nutrition services, Maternity Support Services, and Nurse Family Partnership services at this site.

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